

The LECs operate an "essential facility", as such it is a public facility. The era of monopoly is over and it is essential that these facilities be open to as many competitors as possible. There should be an open access policy to accommodate all ISP firms wishing to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning stimulates competition and benefits consumers.

Furthermore, the whole telecommunications market must be deregulated with regards to who can provide VoIP, DSL service, voice and data. There is a need for the FCC to make sure that the facilities are open and lease at competitive price.

Chairman Powell: If the FCC is really an organization dedicated to the protection of the general public interest (and not to any political party), please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.